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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/765,051	01/16/2001	Alan R. Cohn	LIUI116895	7685
26389	7590	12/19/2003	EXAMINER	
CHRISTENSEN, O'CONNOR, JOHNSON, KINDNESS, PLLC 1420 FIFTH AVENUE SUITE 2800 SEATTLE, WA 98101-2347			REDMAN, JERRY E	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3634	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-14, 18-29, 31-42, 44-52, 54, 56-58 and 69-73 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zweili ('769) in view of Springer et al. Zweili discloses an automatic reciprocating system comprising a plug assembly (24) operable to actuate the sliding door (5 and/or 7) between a plugged and unplugged position, link arms (88 and 90) rotating the door(s), and a drive assembly (21) for driving the doors to an open positioned. Zweili fails to specifically disclose a latch assembly and a sensor assembly. Springer et al. disclose a drive assembly for reciprocating doors comprising a latching member (28), and a control system (74) having a plurality of sensors (56, 58, 60, and 119) for sensing the position in which the door is in and whether the door is locked or unlocked. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide Zweili with a latch and sensors as taught by Springer et al. since a latch provides the door(s) to be locked into a position where it cannot move thereby preventing injuries to people leaving the vehicle. It would have been further obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide Zweili with a control system utilizing sensors as taught by Springer et al. since sensors and a control system allows one to monitor the position of the door and whether the door is in a locked position.


Claims 2, 13, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Springer et al. in view of Zweili. Springer et al. disclose an automatic reciprocating system comprising a cable drive system (Figure 22) for driving doors (20 and 110) between an opened and closed locked position. Springer et al. fail to disclose the doors to be of a plug type assembly. Zweili discloses a drive assembly for plug type doors. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide Springer et al. with a plug type door assembly as taught by Zweili since the plug type door assembly allows the doors to fit perfectly within an opening thus providing a smooth outer surface along the vehicle when the doors are in a closed and locked position.

Claims 6, 8, 15, 30, 43, 53, and 55 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 59-68 are allowable.

The applicant's arguments have been considered but are not deemed persuasive. The applicant argues that Zweili fails to disclose doors to be rotated about a pivot axis as claimed. The Examiner disagrees since Zweili clearly discloses the exact movement of the applicant's invention in column 1, lines 62-67 and column 2, lines 1-45

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Jerry Redman at telephone number 703-308-2120.

  
Jerry Redman  
Primary Examiner